

Causes and Prevention of Scooter Accidents

Tips: You And Your Scooter, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation asserts:

"The majority of crashes between a scooter and a car happen at intersections – the most frequently occurring situation is a vehicle turning left in front of the scooter."

Statistics show that the most common cause of a motorcycle/scooter and automobile accident is the sudden left-turning automobile in front of the scooter. And **intersections are the most likely venue for collisions**. The car driver may not see your scooter.

- Cover your scooter with reflective stickers.
- Wear a bright riding jacket as visible as possible, preferably red or yellow. It is critical that you be seen.
- Scooter turn signal lights are essential to the scooter driver's safety. Not only do they broadcast your intentions to traffic around, but it also serves to highlight your presence to those who may not of otherwise been observant.
- Don't make sudden turns.
- Always keep the front light on.

- Keep your high beam on at all times to increase other driver's awareness of you.
- When turning, stay in your lane. Squeezing over will inevitably invite impatient drivers behind you to try to squeeze through.
- Drive extra carefully on wet roads. Your chances of an accident increase on roads that are wet due to you and other drivers not adjusting their driving habits for the wet roads.
- Beware the tailgater. Tail-gating or following too closely, happens to scooters all the time.
- Generally, ride the scooter in the left wheel run of your roadway lane. That means slightly to the left. Riding to the right means approaching traffic sees you a millisecond later. Riding in the left rut helps the driver in front of you to see you in his rear view mirror.
- Take a motorcycle safety course before hitting the road. They can save your life. And it will, after just a weekend, give you safety skills and knowledge that would of taken several years to develop.

The [American Motorcycle Safety Foundation](#) has a number of free streaming safety videos at their website.

- Finally, slow down. Just like in a car, drive only at a safe speed for the traffic and road conditions. A high percentage of accidents occur when the scooter is being operated at or near the maximum speed of the scooter.
- Be aware of all scooter laws that are applicable to your scooter including where you can ride and at what speed and helmet laws.

SDPD DIVISIONS

For general information please contact your local police substation.

Central Division	(619) 744-9500
Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Mid-City Division	(619) 516-3000
Northeastern Division	(858) 538-8000
Northern Division	(858) 552-1700
Northwestern Division	(858) 523-7000
Southeastern Division	(619) 527-3500
Southern Division	(619) 424-0400
Western Division	(619) 692-4800

November 1, 2018



Scooter Safety



SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

This brochure summarizes the information and regulations regarding Scooter Safety.

- 1. About Scooters
- 2. Scooter Accidents
- 3. Causes and Prevention of Scooter Accidents



## About Scooters

Scooters are unique vehicles often sold or rented to people with no experience with any motorized bike. They neither handle nor respond to crisis as would an automobile or even a regular motorcycle.

Many people are injured as they struggle to learn how to be safe while driving a scooter. This comes with significantly greater risk of accidents and injury, many of which can be serious.

Many operators don't appreciate that a small scooter is not a bicycle but a motor vehicle and will be treated as such by other drivers, without the largesse of safety usually afforded bicycles.

Car drivers have a steel cage all around them. Scooter riders do not.

## Scooter Accidents

The most common injuries are fractures or dislocations, lacerations, contusions and strains or sprains. Forty-two percent of injuries were to the arm or hand, 27 percent were to the head or face and 24 percent were to the leg or foot.

**You can't practice accidents.** When they happen, it's a sudden, fast and unforgiving lesson.

SAN DIEGO -- A woman is warning others about dockless electric scooters after her brother was seriously hurt while riding one.

The crash happened on June 11 around 8:30 p.m. in the 1100 block of Washington Street. According to police, a 41-year-old drove into the path of a car that was exiting northbound state Route 163. Officers said the operator was not wearing a helmet and was cited for DUI. He has been in the ICU at a local hospital ever since.

"It's been a nightmare for us," the sister, said. "He had suffered six broken ribs, a broken clavicle and a broken scapula. After about 24 hours here in the hospital, his lungs collapsed."

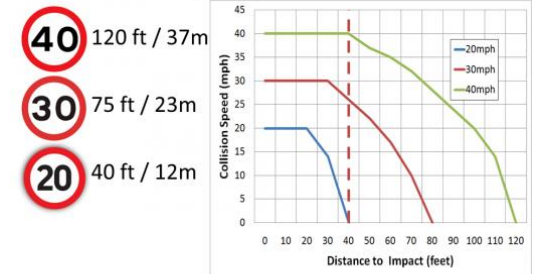
A sudden impact can jettison a driver or passenger sliding along the pavement right onto oncoming traffic. With maybe the sole protection of a helmet, a tumbling, disoriented driver or passenger is no match for a car or a bus. In this way, the most simplest of scooter accidents can be fatal.

- **Always** give yourself reaction time.
- Don't drive nonchalantly. Operating a scooter is not the same as driving a car. Even though we should always drive defensively, it is especially critical when operating a scooter.
- **Always wear a helmet and do not neglect eye protection.** You may get hit in the face by bugs, pebbles and rocks. A full facial visor is safest.



- **Speed is always a contributing factor in scooter accidents.** On the road with a scooter, never speed. It may be exhilarating but sooner or later, you may have a situation where your speed will eliminate most recovery or reaction options.

## Stopping distances



- Always operate your scooter thinking safety first.

